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Scott Manor News

June 2018



Meet the Summer 2018 Staff

The Fort Sackville Foundation is very pleased to introduce Annaka, John and Olivia as our summer staff.

Annaka Merrick is a graduate of the International Baccalaureate Program at Charles P. Allen High School. Born and raised in Bedford, Annaka will be returning to Queen's University for her third year. She is studying political science and gender studies. Annaka is the Communications Director for Indigo Girls Kingston branch, an organization dedicated to helping young girls. This is Annaka's second summer working at the Scott Manor House. She is excited to continue learning about the various artifacts found throughout the house.

Olivia Tulloch is a 2016 graduate of Charles P. Allen High School, who completed the International Baccalaureate program. She is returning to Trent University in the fall for her third year as an English major with an Option in Linguistics. This is her first year working at Scott Manor House and she is excited to learn about the changes the house went through, and the work that went into maintaining its structure.

John Morrison will be completing his BA Anthropology degree at Saint Mary's University this year. This is his first year of employment with Scott Manor House, and he is very interested in exploring the earlier history of Bedford and Halifax. John is particularly fascinated by the military, political and folk history of the area.

Welcome to Summer 2018 at Scott Manor!

The Fort Sackville Foundation has a very full program planned for the summer. There will be something for everyone: crafts, music, art, informative talks, and book launches. Tea will be ready Monday to Friday from 2 to 4 pm. Lemonade and oatcakes will be available on the veranda on Saturdays. We look forward to seeing you!

Highlights

Since August 2017 newsletter

Bedford Then & Now Guidebook

- The Bedford Then & Now Guidebook is now available, providing details about the changes to landmarks along the old Main Road, now the Bedford Highway, from the early 1900's to 2016/2017. These landmarks are shown on the Bedford Then and Now banners. The guidebook is a stand alone resource giving concise history and context to these changes. A copy has been donated to the Bedford Public Library. The guidebook can be purchased at Scott Manor House for \$25.00.
- The Bedford Then and Now banners are on display at Scott Manor House during July and August, and may be borrowed for community events from September to May.

Heritage 80 photographs

- The Fort Sackville Foundation's collection of heritage photographs is now available for the public to view on the new computer in the Christie Room. The photographs date from the early 1900's and show many interesting views of early Bedford. Many thanks to Ken Dodsworth for all his work in setting this up.
- All photographs on this page are courtesy of the Heritage 80 Collection available at Scott Manor House.

The Halifax Explosion— As Told by Evelyn (Fox) Richardson

- Evelyn (Fox) Richardson, renowned Nova Scotian author after whom the annual Evelyn Richardson Literary Award for Non-Fiction is named, was just 15 on the day of the Halifax Explosion. A short documentary video of Evelyn's experiences as she travelled from Bedford to Halifax on that fateful day was produced by June Boswell, with funding provided by Halifax Explosion 100th Anniversary Grants Program. It reflects Ms. Richardson's personal account of her peaceful train trip to Halifax County Academy and the horrible aftermath as she attempted to return home that evening. Images from various museums highlight her experiences. Musical background was provided by Rick Gunn and the Bedford United Church choir, and narration read by Emily Cote, a summer staffer in 2017.
- Leading up to the 100th anniversary of the explosion, June presented the Bedford story to audiences at the Bedford library, Bedford Berkley, C.P. Allen High School and twice at Scott Manor House. To date it has been seen online (www.scottmanor.ca) over 800 times.

Steam Train passing Birch Cove



Evelyn (Fox) Richardson



Bedford Railroad Station c. 1916

A Little Bit of History

Quoits

In Mr. George Christie's words: "quoits was an outdoor, summer game played by men for over two thousand years that has gone the way of the dodo." It is, indeed, a word that few people have heard in the past half century.

To play quoits you need three things: a quoits bed, rings and sticks. Quoits beds are made of clay, that should be damp not dry. There were specific measurements for the size of the bed and the distance between beds. The rings were traditionally made of metal, mostly iron and weighed 2 and 1/2 pounds. The sticks or "hubs" would be made of hardwood, tapered at one end and would project four inches above the ground.

Quoits was a popular game in Bedford. It was played from 1900, when the Bedford Club was established, until activities were suspended at the Club during World War II. The game may have continued to be played on beds along the Sackville River on property owned by Mr. R. F. Tolson.

Other local communities also had quoits teams and the different community teams played against each other. There were competitions for championships at the County and Provincial level at which players took part.

In February 2018 Glen Taylor of the Rockingham Heritage Society contacted the Fort Sackville Foundation (FSF) as they had discovered the Brenton Trophy for a quoits game that was played in 1928. Bedford won! He was interested to see if the FSF would set up a quoits bed and hold a tournament during the summer. Other neighbouring heritage societies would be invited to enter a team.

The quoits bed has been built by Patrick Branton and the date is set for Friday, August 17, 2018. Quoits will once again be played in Bedford.

Please come by and cheer the Bedford team on.

Written with information from Quoits - A History of the Activity in Bedford, prepared by George Christie, October 1997





Dave Selig

Fort Sackville Foundation Volunteer of the Year

David Selig has been an active and valued member of the Fort Sackville Foundation for the past 14 years. For the past six years he has co-chaired or chaired the House Committee at Scott Manor House.

Dave began his volunteer work at Scott Manor House in 2004 working with a team that carried out several major projects that modernized the property. That team completed renovations in the Christie Room, the Bedford Room, the Photo and Map Room, the office and bathrooms. Some of the projects they undertook were uncovering the fireplaces that had been covered with brick and gyprock. They replaced ceilings, installed new wiring (with the assistance of an electrician) added light fixtures, installed picture rails, removed the bathtub and added closets. Dave along with Lew Turner even hand sanded and refinished the wooden floors on the second floor of Scott Manor House. All of these projects made the Manor a better home for the Fort Sackville Foundation and the other groups that enjoy use of the house.

Dave took on the role of co – chair of the House Committee in 2011 and has chaired this committee since 2014. This is a busy job and comes with many responsibilities. Dave looked after the yearly maintenance of the Manor. He repaired and painted, as necessary, inside the house. He bought all the cleaning supplies and coordinated the work of the cleaners. He instructed the summer staff about the cleaning products and their use. Each year, Dave had put up and taken down storm windows as well as the screen doors. He had also installed and removed the four ‘window mount’ air conditioners yearly. He painted the posts on the veranda. He acted as the main contact person with Halifax Regional Municipality who owns the Scott Manor House. He let them know of any problems or concerns and he was the person they contacted when they had workers coming to the house to do any job – from inspections to repairs. Dave was called when mice or wasps appeared in the Manor. One winter, the Scott Manor House oil tank ran dry and this caused pipes to freeze. HRM was contacted late on a bitter February evening ...that there was no heat in the Manor... no oil in the tank.... some pipes had already frozen...two radiators had frozen...and water was running out of a light fixture. Dave checked out the situation and stayed in the manor with a plumber from HRM until 2am to make sure the problem was corrected. The staff of HRM was very thankful that Dave had managed to prevent major water damage to the Manor.

In 2015, Dave was the contact person between the Fort Sackville Foundation and Jetco Construction Ltd, as the new garage was built...replacing the one destroyed by the ice and snow of that winter. Dave was on site most days during that project.

Dave oversaw the use of the Manor by other organizations and dealt with any requests to use the house or grounds. In matters dealing with the Scott Manor House, a common phrase that was heard is, “We’ll call Dave about that.” As Chair of the Scott Manor House Committee Dave regularly attended monthly executive meetings, where his advice was valued.

Dave is entering his second year on the Board of Directors of the Fort Sackville Foundation.

The Fort Sackville Foundation greatly appreciated the wonderful level of service and quality of work that Dave provided. His patient, good natured leadership is highly valued by the Fort Sackville Foundation. The Fort Sackville Foundation is very pleased acknowledge David Selig as our Volunteer of the Year.

Georgian Tea

June 23, 2018

For more than two decades the Fort Sackville Foundation has hosted the Georgian Tea, previously known as the Victorian Tea, at Scott Manor House.

On a lovely Saturday afternoon, the sounds of the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson, tea, sandwiches and homemade sweets were enjoyed by more than one hundred twenty guests who were welcomed officially by Speaker of the House of Common MP Geoff Regan.

Tea was served by MP Geoff Regan; Jocelyn Covert, Community Coordinator, Bedford Public Library; Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason and Bedford's first mayor Francene Cosman.

A sincere thank you to Debbie Miller for coordinating this event. Thanks also goes to the members of the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson; Bernice Hartnett, Bedford Horticultural Society, for the four lovely bouquets of flowers; DAVIDs TEA for providing two types of tea and tea samples for those in attendance; and the members of the Fort Sackville Foundation who volunteered their time and provided sandwich fillings and sweets. A very special thank you to the RBC Day of Service volunteers for their support.

A pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all.



HMCS Harry DeWolf

The Fort Sackville Foundation held a special event at Lion's Den, Dr. Gerald LeBrun Centre, on April 3, 2018 to honour Vice Admiral Harry DeWolf and learn about HMCS Harry DeWolf, an Arctic and Offshore Patrol Vessel that will be launched from the Irving Shipyard Halifax, NS.

After Jean MacLeod did a brief presentation about Vice Admiral Harry DeWolf, Paul Hinkins introduced CO Gleason, who was accompanied by Chief Petty Officer Gerry Doucet. CO Gleason showed a short video of the Arctic, explained the various roles of HMCS DeWolf, including: relief efforts, scientific exploration as well as patrolling the Arctic Ocean and described the ship's modern features.

At the end of the presentation a HMCS Harry DeWolf cap and a keel laying souvenir from Irving Shipyards were presented to Jean MacLeod.

A display of information about Vice Admiral Harry DeWolf done by Paul Hinkins, Karen Louise Dickie and Jean MacLeod was available for viewing.

Fort Sackville Foundation Directors — 2018

June Boswell
David Conley
Ken Dodsworth
Graeme Duffus
Warren Ervine
Terry Gordon
Diana Haydon
Valerie Ivy
Michael Kennedy
Jean MacLeod
Ann MacVicar
Debbie Miller
Lloyd Mitchell
Dave Selig
Cherie (Tolson) Winters

Executive

Past Chair: Ann MacVicar
Chair: Jean MacLeod
Vice Chairs: Valerie Ivy
June Boswell
Secretary: Carolyn Crowell
Treasurer: Lynn Loder



Chairs of Committees & Coordinators:

Archives: Warren Ervine
House: Al Harding
Grounds: Patrick Branton
Patricia Leader
Reading/Resource/Research: Ann MacVicar
Tea Room: Barb Macey
Technology: Ken Dodsworth
Curator: Francene Cosman

Members at Large:

June Boswell
Elaine Loney
Lew Turner

Help is Welcome!

The Fort Sackville Foundation depends strictly on volunteers. New volunteers are always needed and welcomed. The old adage “many hands make light work” is as true today as when first written. If you are interested, please contact us through scottmanor.ca or call 902-832-2336.

Scott Manor House Oak

The oak has stood proudly beside the Manor House for many years, enhancing the beauty of the property, providing shade, producing many leaves to be raked in the fall, and hundreds of acorns. On Thursday, June 28th, it also provided the space for teaching new arborists climbing skills.

What a tree!